



STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 6, 2019

Dear Taryn,

I am very sorry to hear that you have decided to resign from the Suicide Prevention Taskforce. I know the taskforce, myself included, has valued your input, expertise, and dedication to helping us seek out solutions to support Utah teens and prevent suicide.

I am anxious to ensure that these precious youth — of limitless potential and boundless worth — are loved and accepted for who they are. Our shared goal of reducing teen suicide should remain our primary focus and objective.

In this matter, I have felt that it is very important that our LGBTQ+ youth need better access to trusted professionals and people they can talk to about their identity and feelings. I also think it's important to protect the rights of parents in counseling with their children in these sensitive matters.

I know these are difficult and emotional issues, but I am, and have been, striving to learn and better understand these issues in order to help achieve the best policy to protect and support Utah's children.

I am so grateful for your work to prevent suicide in our state. This is such an important public health concern for us that affects far too many families in our community. I would like to learn more from you directly about what we can do to help. To that end, I invite you to meet with me regarding your specific concerns.

By working together in good faith, we can develop good policy for Utah.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary R. Herbert".

Gary R. Herbert
Governor